

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SSO-00
INRE-00 /036 W
-----006949 281657Z /41

O R 281640Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2292
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, GW
SUBJ.: CIVAIR: US-FRG NEGOTIATIONS

REF.: STATE 244908

1. CAA DELIVERED MESSAGE ALONG LINES REFTEL TO FRG
AVIATION DIRECTOR GENERAL REHM. REHM ASKED WHAT THE USG
MEANT BY ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY FOR FRG AIRLINES,
I.E., HOW MANY ROUTES WERE WE NOW DISCUSSING. HE
STRESSED THAT HE SAW NO POINT IN JOURNEYING TO
WASHINGTON MERELY TO REHASH ISSUES ALREADY WORKED OVER.
REHM STATED THAT FOR POLITICAL REASONS THERE WAS NO
FLEXIBILITY IN THE GERMAN POSITION. HE WOULD NEED TO
SEE THE US POSITION IN MORE DETAIL BEFORE HE COULD
DECIDE ON A WASHINGTON TRIP.

2. CAA POINTED OUT THAT IN THE CASE OF GERMAN
FLEXIBILITY, THE GERMAN PRESS HAS BEEN REPORTING THE FRG
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DESIRED "FOUR SOUTHERN US POINTS." THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
DEMURRED ON GERMAN PRESS ACCURACY BUT DID NOT DENY THE
REPORTS. (SEVERAL US REPORTERS IN BONN TOLD US THAT
REHM GAVE A BACKGROUND BRIEFING TO THE GERMAN PRESS THE
DAY AFTER THE PROTOCOL SIGNING. WE HAVE NOT BEEN
ABLE TO VERIFY THAT INFORMATION BUT DO NOTE A REMARKABLE
CONSISTENCY IN ALL GERMAN PRESS ITEMS CONCERNING THE

SEPTEMBER 12-17 MEETINGS.)

3. REHM SAID LUFTHANSA (LH) NEEDED FIVE ADDITIONAL POINTS "TO PROTECT ITSELF." THE CAA REPLIED THAT AN ADDITIONAL FIVE POINTS, PLUS SAN JUAN, TOTALLED ELEVEN POINTS, THE COMMERCIAL EQUIVALENT OF OPEN SKIES - WITHOUT EQUIVALENT US REQUESTS BEING MET. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ANSWERED WITH A SHRUG AND SAID THE FRG HAD ALREADY TAKEN A GIANT STEP FORWARD AND COULD DO NO MORE. THE CAA EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS RECOGNIZED THE FRG WAS PREPARED TO TAKE SOME VERY LIBERALIZING STEPS, BUT THAT MANY IN THE US ALSO SAW THIS ACTION AS NO MORE THAN A RATIONAL GERMAN REACTION TO INCREASED COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES.

4. REHM AGREED WITH THE CAA THAT LH COULD NOT POSSIBLY USE AN ADDITIONAL FIVE POINTS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS BUT NOTED THAT LH REQUIRED GUARANTEES THAT THE ROUTES WOULD BE AVAILABLE WHEN NEEDED. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS, PERHAPS, MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN LH PRESENT AND FUTURE REQUIREMENTS UPON WHICH A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ACCOMODATION OF US AND FRG POSITIONS COULD BE FOUND.

5. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SAID THE FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TELEPHONED HIM ON SEPTEMBER 27 TO REPORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT AN OFFICER HAD DISCUSSED THE SITUATION WITH DEPT. ASST. SECY ATWOOD. REHM CLAIMS THE EMBASSY TOLD HIM THAT ATWOOD HAD GIVEN THE EMBASSY MORE DETAILS OF THE US POSITION, WHICH WERE NOW BEING SENT TO BONN. REHM SAID HE EXPECTED THE REPORT MOMENTARILY. HE WISHED TO STUDY THE REPORT AND DISCUSS IT WITH HIS COLLEAGUES BEFORE MAKING ANY COMMITMENT TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON. REHM SAID HE WOULD LET US KNOW HIS DECISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

STOESSEL

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